(d) India desires to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan but there is no question of any compromise with India's secular unity, sovereignty, basic values and territorial integrity. '

Nuclear Weapons test by USA

190. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's atten tion has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "USA CONDUCTS NWEAPONS RELATED TEST" as re ported in the "Statesman", dated 4th July, 1997; and

(b> if so, Government's reaction to such N-Weapons tests conducted by USA.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SH- SALEEM IQBAL. SHERWANI) : (a) Yes Sir- Govt, hive taken note of the 'sub-critical' underground nuclear test conducted hy the I ISA on July 2. I9Q7.

(b) Government believes that such de velopments confirm the validity of India's assessment that the CTBT, in its present form, contains loopholes and does not further the cause of global nuclear disar mament.

Chinese Missile Technology transfer to Pakistan

191. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Chinese missile technology transfer to Pak continues'; which appeared in the "Economic Times" dated the 17th April, 1997; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-ll missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interest.

Delay in sanctioning of Nutrition and Ageing projects

192. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research project, known as Nutrition and Ageing, proposed by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, is pending sanction for research trials by the ICMR;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in approving this project;

(c) by when the approval would be given and the actual trial start; and

(d) by when its results would be made public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) A research project on 'Nutrition and Ageing', proposed by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad was approved by the Health Ministry's Screening Committee in September, 1996. This proposal is being processed for funding from the US-India Rupee Fund after taking the requisite administrative clearances. Normally, approval is obtained within one year from the date the proposal is posed to the donor agency. The final approval for the project is, however, given by the donor agency, if the proposal meets with its guidelines.

tf the Project is approved by the Donor Agency the project is expected to be completed in about 3 years time. The result would only be known thereafter.

Lack of population policy in the Country

193. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: